

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-12 remain pending in this application, claims 1 and 9 being independent. By this Amendment, Applicants are amending the specification to reference the priority information as recited in the application transmittal letter dated December 9, 2003. This information was inadvertently omitted at the time of filing the present continuation application. It is respectfully submitted that no new material has been added by this amendment.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

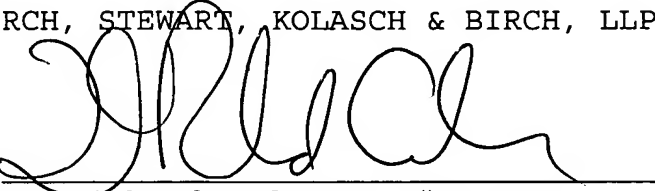
**Conclusion**

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Anderson', is written over a horizontal line.

By

D. Richard Anderson, #40,439

DRA/jdm  
2091-0304P

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000